

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method for characterizing exposure levels in a platesetter comprises exposing regions of a plate at different exposure levels by modulating the power of an exposure beam and then analyzing the plate after development to determine a desired exposure level for plates  
5 on the platesetter by reference to the regions receiving the different exposure levels. The plates are preferably exposed in an area outside of a printing area. In this way, the exposure test can be performed as part of the normal plate printing process. The plate is not consumed. Moreover, the plate exposure setting can be constantly monitored throughout production in one implementation.

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